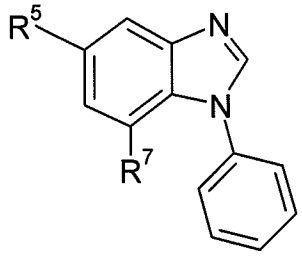
AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (original) A compound of general formula (I):

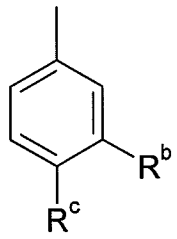


(I)

or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^5 is halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, nitro, alkyl, alkoxy, -alkyl-OR^a, -CH=N-O-R^a or -(C=O)-O-alkyl; wherein R^a is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^7 is



wherein one of R^b and R^c is hydrogen; and the other of R^b and R^c is

- hydrogen, halo, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl or -NR^d-(C=O)-R^e; wherein the alkyl and alkoxy are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, and -NR'R''; R^d and R^e independently of each other are selected from hydrogen and alkyl;
R' and R'' independently of each other are selected from hydrogen and alkyl;

- $-NR^fR^g$, -alkyl-NR^fR^g, -(C=O)-NR^fR^g, -O-NR^fR^g; -O-alkyl-NR^fR^g; -NR^h-alkyl-NR^fR^g;

wherein R^h is hydrogen or alkyl; R^f and R^g independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl; or R^f and R^g together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring, which heterocyclic ring may optionally comprise as a ring member, one oxygen atom, and/or one additional nitrogen atom, and/or one carbon-carbon double bond, and/or one carbon-nitrogen bond; and which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted with trifluoromethyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or -NR'R'';

wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl; or R^b and R^c together represent $-O-CH_2-O-$;

or R^7 is

- -NR^h-(C=O)-R^i, -N=CH-R^i, or -C≡C-R^i; wherein R^h is hydrogen or alkyl; and

R^i is alkyl or phenyl, which alkyl or phenyl is optionally substituted with hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano or alkyl; or

- -NR^jR^k, -alkyl-NR^jR^k, -CH=CH-(C=O)-NR^jR^k, -CH=CH-(C=O)-O-alkyl, -alkyl-(C=O)-NR^jR^k, or -C≡C-CH_2-NR^jR^k; wherein R^j and R^k independently of each other are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, -alkyl-CN, -alkyl-R'R'' and -alkyl-R^l;

wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl; R^l is a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring comprising one nitrogen atom, which heterocyclic ring may optionally comprise as a ring member, one oxygen atom, and/or one additional nitrogen atom, and/or one carbon-carbon double bond, and/or one carbon-nitrogen bond; and which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted with trifluoromethyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or -NR'R'';

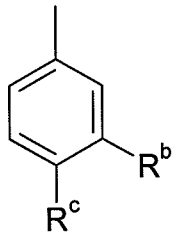
wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl; or R^j and R^k together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring, which heterocyclic ring may optionally comprise as a ring member, one oxygen atom, and/or one additional nitrogen atom, and/or one carbon-carbon double bond, and/or one carbon-nitrogen bond; and which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted with trifluoromethyl, alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, or -NR'R''; wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl;

or R^7 is a heteroaryl group which heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, nitro, alkyl, and alkoxy;

with the proviso that the compound is not
7-(3-Aminophenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,
7-(3-Pyridyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,
1,7-Diphenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,
7-benzoylamino-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole, or
7-amino-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole.

2. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^5 is selected from the group of methyl, tertbutyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, cyano, ethoxycarbonyl, -CH=N-OH, and -CH=N-O-CH_3.

3. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^7 is



wherein one of R^b and R^c is hydrogen; and
the other of R^b and R^c is

- hydrogen, halo, cyano, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl or -NR^d-(C=O)-R^e; wherein the alkyl and alkoxy are optionally substituted with

one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, and -NR'R'';

- $-NR^fR^g$, -alkyl-NR^fR^g, -(C=O)-NR^fR^g, -O-NR^fR^g; -O-alkyl-NR^fR^g; -NR^h-alkyl-NR^fR^g;

wherein R^d, R^e, R^f, R^g, R^h, R' and R'' are as defined in claim 1.

4. (currently amended) The chemical compound of claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^7 is 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl.

5. (currently amended) The chemical compound of claim 1, or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^7 is R^7 is

- -NR^h-(C=O)-R^i, -N=CH-R^i, or -C≡C-R^i;

wherein R^h is hydrogen or alkyl; and R^i is alkyl or phenyl, which alkyl or phenyl is optionally substituted with hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano or alkyl; or

- -NR^jR^k, -alkyl-NR^jR^k, -CH=CH-(C=O)-NR^jR^k, -CH=CH-(C=O)-O-alkyl, -alkyl-(C=O)-NR^jR^k, or -C≡C-CH_2-NR^jR^k; wherein R^j and R^k independently of each other are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, -alkyl-CN, -alkyl-R'R'' and -alkyl-R^l; wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl; R^l is a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring comprising one nitrogen atom, which heterocyclic ring may optionally comprise as a ring member, one oxygen atom, and/or one additional nitrogen atom, and/or one carbon-carbon double bond, and/or one carbon-nitrogen bond; and which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted with trifluoromethyl, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or -NR'R''; wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl; or R^j and R^k together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic ring, which heterocyclic ring may optionally comprise as a ring member, one oxygen atom, and/or one additional nitrogen atom, and/or one carbon-carbon double bond, and/or one carbon-nitrogen bond; and which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted with trifluoromethyl, alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, or -NR'R''; wherein R' and R'' independently of each other are hydrogen or alkyl.

6. (previously presented) The chemical compound of claim 1, wherein R^7 is indolyl, pyridyl, or furyl, optionally substituted with halo or methyl.

7. (original) The compound of claim 1, which is
7-(3-Chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
7-(3-Aminophenyl)-5-formyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole oxime;
O-Methyl 7-(3-Aminophenyl)-5-formyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole oxime;
7-(N-benzylideneamino)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
7-(N-(4-cyanobenzylidene)amino)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
7-(N-(3-cyanobenzylidene)amino)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
7-(3-Aminophenyl)-5-cyano-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
7-(3-(Hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
1-Phenyl-7-(3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-1-ylmethyl)phenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-benzimidazole;
7-(3-Acetamidophenyl)-5-ethoxycarbonyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
7-(3-Aminophenyl)-5-ethoxycarbonyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-7-(3-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
7-(3-Cyanophenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluorophenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(3-hydroxymethylphenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(3-((1-methylpiperazin-4-yl)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(3-(diethylaminomethyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
7-(3-Acetamidophenyl)-5-cyano-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(4-cyanophenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;
5-Cyano-7-[3-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Cyano-7-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Cyano-7-(pyridin-4-yl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Aminophenyl)-5-hydroxymethyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-(3-((morpholin-4-yl)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-(3-((1-methylpiperazin-4-yl)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Ethoxycarbonyl-7-(3-((dimethylamino)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Cyano-7-(3-cyanophenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

5-Cyano-7-(4-nitrophenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(4-Acetamidophenyl)-5-cyano-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Acetamidophenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

O-Methyl 7-(3-acetmidophenyl)-5-formyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole oxime;

O-Methyl 7-(3-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-5-formyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole oxime;

5-Cyano-7-(4-diethylaminomethylphenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(4-Benzamidyl)-5-cyano-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Acetamidophenyl)-5-hydroxymethyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Ethylaminophenyl)-5-hydroxymethyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Dimethylaminophenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Methylaminophenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

1-Phenyl-7-(3-((4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl)phenyl)-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-(1-Morpholinylmethyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-((Dimethylamino)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

5-Cyano-7-(4-(2-(4-morpholino)ethoxy)phenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-(N-Methyl acetamido)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

1-Phenyl-7-(4-pyridyl)- 5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

5-(Hydroxymethyl)-1-phenyl-7-(3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)benzimidazole;

7-(4-pyridyl N-oxide)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-chloro-4-pyridyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-chloro-4-pyridyl-N-oxide)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Acetylphenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluorophenylbenzimidazole;

3-(3-Phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylic acid methyl ester;

3-(6-Cyano-3-phenyl-3H-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylic acid methyl ester;

7-(4-Morpholinyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

5-*t*-Butyl-7-(3-dimethylaminophenyl)-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-(1-Methoxyethyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(1-Methyl-5-indolyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-(1-Hydroxyethyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Furyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

N,N-Diethyl-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylamide;

1-(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;

3-(3-Phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-1-piperidinylprop-2-en-1-one;

1-(4-Morpholinyl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;

1-(4-Methyl-[1,4]-hexahydrodiazepin-1-yl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;

N-(2-Cyanoethyl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylamide;

3-(3-Phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-*N*-propylacrylamide;

N-(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylamide;

3-(3-Phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-1-(4-trifluoromethyl-piperidin-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;

7-(3-(2-Hydroxy-2-propyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(4-Hydroxypiperidinyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-Fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-1-phenylbenzimidazole;

7-(4-Hydroxybut-1-ynyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(1-(1-(4-Hydroxyethylpiperazinyl)ethyl)-1-methylamino)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethyl-benzimidazole;

7-(1-(1-(4-Methylpiperazinyl)ethyl)-1-methyl)amino-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

7-(3-(4-Morpholino)prop-1-ynyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;

N,N-Diethyl-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)propionamide;
3-(6-*tert*-Butyl-3-phenyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;
N-Ethyl-*N*-isopropyl-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylamide;
N-(1-Methylpiperidin-4-yl)methyl–3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-acrylamide;
N-Methyl-*N*-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylamide;
3-(6-*tert*-Butyl-3-phenyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-*N*-methyl-*N*-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-acrylamide;
7-(4-(Diethylamino)butyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
7-(4-((N-(2-Cyanoethyl)-N-methyl)amino)-1-butyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
3-(3-Phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)-1-(pyrollidin-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;
1-(2,5-Dihydropyrrol-1-yl)-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)prop-2-en-1-one;
N-(2-Cyanoethyl)–*N*-methyl-3-(3-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-3*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)acrylamide;
1-Phenyl-7-(3-(1-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridinyl))prop-1-ynyl)-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
1-Phenyl-7-(3-(1-piperidinyl)prop-1-ynyl)-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
7-[1-(3-Dimethylamino)pyrrolidinyl]-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole;
or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, or the compound
7-(3-Aminophenyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,
7-(3-Pyridyl)-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,
1,7-Diphenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,
7-benzoylamino-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole, or
7-amino-1-phenyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole,

or an N-oxide thereof, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

9. – 13. (cancelled).